FIGHTING BACK

SOME REAL-LIFE SUPERHEROES, LIKE SEATTLE'S 'PURPLE REIGN,' WERE ONCE VICTIMS THEMSELVES. FIND OUT WHAT MOTIVATES THEM TO HELP OTHERS PAGES 6 & 7

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Wednesday, April 25, 2012
News worth sharing.
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DREAM ON

Scott Keyes, 18, of London plays Oberon, and Brianna Kane, 17, of London portrays Puck in a scene from A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Grand Theatre. The production, featuring local high-school students, is playing in the McManus Studio Theatre through Saturday. Ticket information is available at 519-672-8800 or at grandtheatre.com. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Budget deal does little for poor: Critics

Liberal-NDP pact.
Election averted as budget passes vote

ANGELA MULLINS
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An 11th-hour budget deal that raises welfare payouts and taxes the wealthy is a step in the right direction, but doesn't go far enough to help people who are hurting, some say.

"I'm happy to see a small amount of movement. At the same time, it's concerning to me that we're going to see people continue to have a … difficult time accessing the (services) they need," said Chuck Lazenby, general manager of the Unity Project.

The non-profit, which offers shelter and programs for the homeless, took the lead in a local lobbying effort to stave off cuts included in the Liberals' $15.2-billion deficit-elimination plan.

One of the biggest concerns — a freeze on Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program — was put to rest in the budget passed Tuesday. Welfare payments will rise by one per cent this year.

But other concerns — freezing the Child Benefit and capping discretionary health benefits that help the poor — went unaddressed. That, Lazenby said, will add to the burdens on social-service agencies.

"All the points shouldn't be (non-negotiable) and even one of them standing on their own in the budget is going to have an impact," Lazenby said.

Revenue from the new two per cent surtax on the rich should be used to offset those hits instead of going toward the deficit, said Tim Carrie, president of Canadian Auto Workers Local 27.

He equated the Liberal plan for the extra $470 million a year to a homeowner upping mortgage payments instead of "putting food on the table."

"(The money) isn't going to help the most vulnerable in our communities."

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 4

Tax the rich

$500,001

The income level at which the "ultra-wealthy" tax will kick in. It will likely be scrapped when the budget is balanced.

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1 NEWS

On the web

Ruff life in rehab

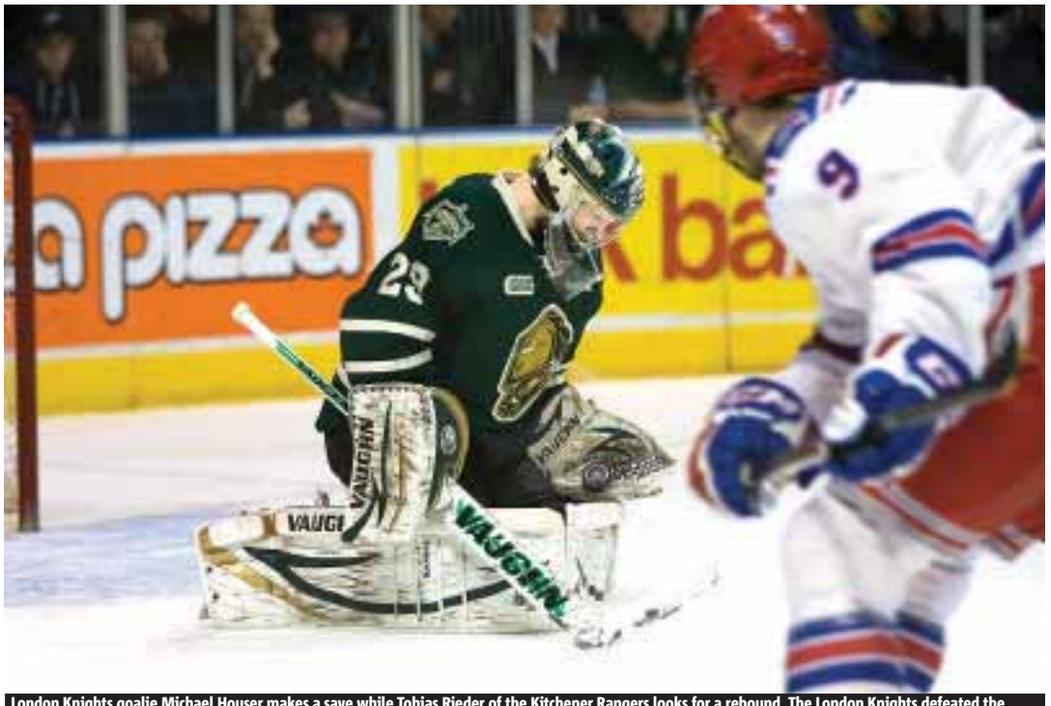
Four-legged victims of disasters, dogfighting operations and puppy mills are now being given a second chance. The American SPCA has set up a rehab centre for rescued furry friends. Watch at metronews.ca.

A hole lot of trouble

A young girl plunged about seven metres after a hole opened up beneath her feet as she walked on the sidewalk. The shocking footage was captured on a security camera in China's Shaanxi Province. Watch at metronews.ca.

Mobile news

Two men have been arrested after a dangerous booby trap was found on a Utah hiking trail. A 20-pound spiked boulder was rigged, with trip wire, to swing at head level. Scan the code for the story.



London Knights goalie Michael Houser makes a save while Tobias Rieder of the Kitchener Rangers looks for a rebound. The London Knights defeated the Kitchener Rangers 5-2 to take a 3-0 series lead in the Western Conference final. The series now switches to Kitchener on Wednesday where London can sweep the series with a win. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Knights in control

OHL Western final. Maatta makes quick work of Rangers to guide Knights to 3-0 series lead

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Tyler Ferry in Game 1. Scott Harrington in Game 2. Olli Maatta in Game 3.

The London Knights have cast a different leading actor for each contest so far in the Western Conference final.

Tuesday night — with a chance to shove the Kitchener Rangers against the wall in front of 8,927 fans at the John Labatt Centre — Maatta was the one who delivered as the Knights won, 5-2.

"On the first one I just wanted to shoot the puck on net, and I couldn't have shot it better. And the second, I just wanted to join the rush, and (Austin Watson) made a good pass. I think it was pretty lucky, but I'll take it," the 17-year-old rearguard said of his goals, scored over a 12-second span in the second period.

The first two-and-a-half rounds of playoff action have been a coming-out party of sorts for the No. 8-ranked draft-eligible North American-based skater. The blue-liner now boasts a stat line of 16 points and plus-11 in 13 games, an impressive feat considering his point total after 58 regular-season games was just 32.

The levee broke early for the Rangers, with London's Jared Knight wristing home his team's first shot on goal. They were outshot 20-8 in the opening period, and entered the second frame down 2-1.

"It looks more like Stars On Ice than it does a hockey game right now," Kitchener head coach Steve Spott said of his team's efforts. "It's been way too quiet for our hockey club, and it's just a battle level we haven't gotten."

In Game 3, Maatta and Knight didn't wreak havoc all by themselves.

From Watson's pro-style shot-blocking to the uncharacteristic knock-em-down play of Vlad Namestnikov, London brought its "A" game.

"I like our depth, we always did," Knights head coach Mark Hunter said plainly.

Michael Houser faced only 23 shots in the victory, while Kitchener's goaltending duo of John Gibson and Franky Palazzese turned away 38.

London was 0-for-7 on the power play, dropping its playoff success rate to a pedestrian 19.3 per cent.

Knights forward Greg McKegg sat out for his third consecutive game with an upper-body injury.

The Knights will look to complete the sweep tonight in Kitchener.

Big number

16

The number of points Knights rookie defenceman Olli Maatta has scored in 13 post-season games.

Addiction

Send that habit up in smoke

The Middlesex-London Health Unit wants to hear from smokers who want to kick their addiction. The health unit has free nicotine-replacement therapy, or the patch, for people who qualify.

Those who would like to participate must call the health unit (519-663-5317, ext. 2673) in advance to see if they qualify before taking part in a workshop on May 7.

METRO

London library

Penn Kemp to host literary event

City of London poet laureate Penn Kemp will celebrate national poetry month with an event Thursday at the London Public Library Rotary Reading Garden (251 Dundas St.).

Joining Kemp will be David Hickey, Cornelia Hoogland, Kathryn Mockler and Karen Schindler.

Kemp will also perform a tribute to the late Colleen Thibaudeau Reaney.

The event will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the reading garden, or nearby at the Little Red Roaster if the weather is inclement.

METRO

Missing teen

17-year-old found safe and sound

London police say a missing teen has been found safe and sound.

Police had been looking for Gunoh Lee, 17, after he was last seen on Monday.

In a release, police thanked the public for their assistance, but gave no further details.

METRO

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Premier Dalton McGuinty stands up to vote in favour of the 2012 provincial budget at Queen's Park in Toronto on Tuesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario budget passes vote with tax-the-rich deal

Liberal government. Premier McGuinty agrees to crucial demand, avoiding another election

A "happy marriage" between the Liberals and NDP that was solidified with a new tax on the rich allowed Ontario's minority government to survive a confidence vote on its budget Tuesday.

After weeks of negotiations between the Liberals and the New Democrats, Premier Dalton McGuinty finally agreed Monday to increase the tax on incomes over $500,000 in exchange for NDP support on the budget.

"The NDP were insistent on a tax on the rich and we were insistent on finding a way to accelerate our plan to eliminate the deficit, so we have a found a happy marriage," McGuinty told cheering Liberal members immediately after the crucial vote.

Promises

"I think this tax increase is simply going to pay for spending that they've already promised, the full-day kindergarten, the tuition tax rebate, the support for home renovations."
Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak

"By working with the NDP we have made a strong budget even stronger."

In the end, the New Democrats abstained from the budget vote, but that allowed the Liberals to outvote the Progressive Conservatives 52 to 37 and pass the motion, avoiding a second election in less than a year.

The NDP is still upset the budget calls for the privatization of Ontario Northland railway and removes subsidies from the horse-racing industry, saying those moves will kill jobs, not create them. They did not want to vote for a budget they still have problems with, but didn't want to force another election either, said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Animal shelter

All safe after fire

Staff at a St. Thomas animal shelter are commending the quick actions of volunteers during a fire over the noon hour Tuesday.

A dryer caught fire at Animal Aide around 12:30 p.m. that forced the evacuation of staff and roughly 100 cats.

Operations manager Leah Player said no person or animal was hurt.

"We had our vets come in. Luckily we didn't have to relocate the cats. They were a little shaken up but no serious injuries," Player said.

AM980/AM980.CA

Abuse victims. Londoners awarded for advocacy work

Londoners dedicated to the fight for victims' rights have earned honours with the attorney general's 2012 Victim Services Awards of Distinction.

Dr. Mohammed Baobaid, executive director and founder of the Muslim Resource Centre For Social Support and Integration, was recognized for raising awareness about domestic violence in Canada's Muslim communities. He recently started the Family Honour Project to challenge beliefs surrounding violence against women.

The London Abused Women's Centre was also recognized for its support and advocacy on behalf of women abused by intimate partners, those facing workplace harassment and those in the sex industry. METRO

Mohammed Baobaid. CONTRIBUTED

Inevitable breakup?

Charest among those surprised by Ignatieff's musing

There are some surprised reactions to remarks from ex-Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff, who suggested in a BBC interview that Quebec and Canada are almost two separate countries floating towards a breakup.

That suggestion was met with resistance Tuesday from federalist Quebecers. "What I will tell you is a strong majority of Quebecers believe in Canada," said Quebec Premier Jean Charest.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime

Feds to hike victim surcharge

The federal government plans to double the victim surcharge levied against criminals. The surcharge goes to help victims.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson says he will bring in legislation to set the surcharge at 30 per cent of any fine levied.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Appeal

Wife killer can collect on life insurance: Court

A man who killed his wife should be allowed to collect on her life-insurance policy because he was insane at the time, Ontario's top court ruled Tuesday.

In overturning a lower judge's decision, the Ontario Court of Appeal decided that public policy, which normally would bar killers from benefiting from their victims' deaths, does not apply in this case.

However, the court put its decision on hold to allow the government to try to seize the money.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Myanmar

Sanctions yanked

Canada has suspended most of its sanctions against Myanmar in recognition of the country's moves towards democracy, with former political prisoner Aung Sang Suu Kyi winning a parliamentary seat in historic elections there earlier this month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

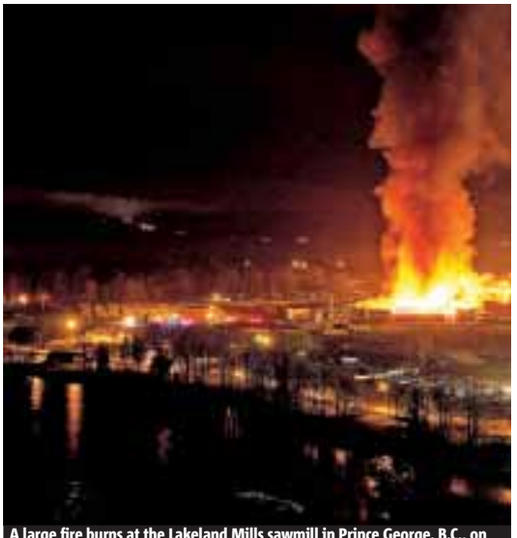
One dead following Prince George, B.C., sawmill explosion

'No warning.'
Second deadly explosion this year prompts province to announce all sawmills will be inspected for safety

Evening shift workers at a Prince George, B.C., sawmill ran for their lives after an earth-shaking explosion and massive fire sent walls crumbling down on top of them.

The blast killed one person and critically injured at least seven more.

Colleagues at the Lakeland Sawmill scrambled to help each other, with one saying he used scissors to cut charred clothing off those whose burned skin was dripping. "It was quite gruesome," said union rep Brian Croy. THE CANADIAN PRESS



A large fire burns at the Lakeland Mills sawmill in Prince George, B.C., on Tuesday. ANDREW JOHNSON EDIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Just put it on our tab

Oda not the biggest spender

Bev Oda may be in hot water for her champagne tastes, but by no means is she the highest-spending member of Stephen Harper's cabinet.

That distinction goes to Gerry Ritz.

The agriculture minister has racked up the biggest travel and hospitality tab of any of his Conservative colleagues in recent years.

That's apparently because of trade missions that have taken him all over the globe.

It has cost $271,489 since March 2010 to send Ritz to such far-flung destinations as Italy, Turkey, Indonesia and Japan.

He edged out Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to claim the top spot.

Travel and hospitality costs for Flaherty came to $270,119.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay came in third with expenses of $265,286.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Hey look, it's the friendly death guy

Downtown Eastside avenger. Thanatos celebrates five years of costumed community work

MATT KIELTYKA
Metro in Vancouver

Page 1, panel 1. "These streets have a lot of stories to tell." Every corner, every nook and cranny in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside has a history. Tales of tragedy, legends of love, anecdotes of apathy, chronicles of compassion. Each person has a role to play.

Panel 2. The dark silhouette of a trench coat and brimmed hat enters the frame. Only the figure's green skull — death itself — is visible. The shadowy figure ominously reaches into a sack, grabs something and slowly takes his arm out to reveal ... a sock.

"Hey, how are you doing?" the costumed man cheerily asks. "Would you like a pair of socks? They're free!"

Enter Thanatos, the friendliest incarnation of the Grim Reaper you'll ever find, Vancouver's very own real-life charitable superhero.

This is his story. For the last five years, Thanatos — a 63-year-old professional, husband and father in his "real" life — has been strolling through the Downtown Eastside, handing out clothing, blankets, food and water to residents in need.

Like his comic-book heroes, his driving desire to dress up and patrol the area is driven by an overwhelming desire to make the world a better place, right wrongs and lend a helping hand to his community.

"I don't come from Krypton and wasn't bitten by a radioactive spider or anything like that," Thanatos, named after the Greek god of death, says of his origin story.

"I was working downtown, trying to help out on the streets, and noticing a lot of things happening ... people living and dying on the streets.

"I was told by a police officer that some people on the street had nothing better to look forward to than death. That really stung, that really hurt me," he said, a slightly high-pitched voice barely muffled through the fabric hood. "So I said, 'If that's the case, then death better get out there and start taking care of these people.' I developed this persona to go out there and help."

He's been going strong ever since, garnering international media attention while using his unique — some say crazy — approach to giving back to shine a light on the poverty and social issues afflicting one of Canada's most infamous and misunderstood neighbourhoods.

His biggest claim to fame was a starring role in the 2011 HBO documentary Superheroes, which profiled some of the 400 Real-Life Superheroes operating throughout North America.

If local residents don't notice Thanatos from his adventures in the area, they've seen him on TV.

In fact, two fans had one such encounter on the hero's recent stroll through the DTES with Metro.

"You're awesome," said a stranger with long, ratty hair and a teardrop tattoo under his eye. "Keep up the good work."

A quick fist bump and Thanatos was back at delivering socks into the hands of people cowering under archways, door portals and bridge underpasses on a typical rainy day.

Onlookers laugh, passing motorists slow down for a look and camera phones are whipped out when Thanatos is near.

He's a draw, but it's not about him.

"It gets the attention where it's needed," the masked avenger says. "By using this persona, I've been able to spread the word about what's going on down there; I've been able to get more aid in the area. I'm asked by reporters if it actually works, and it's like, 'Well, you're here talking to me right now,' so it's obviously working."

And like any of his fictional heroes, Thanatos' work is never done.

"I'm an average person that just wants to do something and make a difference. People want to know what Real-Life Superheroes are all about," he says. "Apathy is the biggest killer out there. That's what we do: We fight apathy. We get people involved and we inspire them."

Final panel. The shadowy figure fearlessly runs toward his next adventure. To be continued.

Residents' reaction

Writer Nadia Fezzani visits the Downtown Eastside to find out what people think of Thanatos.

- Once on Hastings, I walked along a couple of blocks where there were lots of people. Some were selling drugs; others appeared to be selling stolen goods. I asked if they knew who the man who represented death was. Although some of them didn't know his name, many people knew but did not want to talk about him.
- One of the few who would speak about him was selling goods from a blanket spread out on the sidewalk. I asked her if she knew the superhero. "Yes," she said nervously. Watching her surroundings, she told me Thanatos was a very nice man but that she didn't really know much about him. As I was leaving, a few men approached me to tell me how amazing a man he is.

Vancouver Real-Life Superhero Thanatos. PETER TA

60 seconds

An interview with Thanatos Necrium

Why did you choose Thanatos, or death, as your superhero character?
I've been doing this for a little more than four years. I've always been someone to get involved. I worked on my own down on Hastings Street and with small groups, trying to help out with the homeless with handouts and counselling and to point them in the right direction. It was very difficult, and I couldn't get anyone's attention. Nobody wanted to listen. One day, a police officer told me, "You know, people on the street really have nothing better to look forward to other than death." And that really stunned me. So I said, "If that is the case, then death is going to have to get out there and start taking care of these people!"

Does the mask have an impact on people?
I am drawing attention. Social workers see these people in the morning, and people don't remember them by the afternoon. Me, they remember. They remember the crazy guy with a mask out there helping and that's all I care about. I've had people from France, from Germany, from all over the States come to talk to me because I put on a mask and I'm drawing attention to a problem. Nobody wants to talk to me, Joe Blow. But they'll listen to Thanatos. There are people who say this is an ego trip. If this were an ego trip, would I hide behind the mask?

As a Real-Life Superhero, what do you do, exactly?
I'm an extra set of eyes and ears for the police. I help the homeless on the street with handouts of blankets, food, simple things like a loaf of bread, sometimes something as simple as human touch and companionship. I keep an eye on them and I draw attention to the plight of people who fall through the system and end up on the streets. In my city alone I've probably reached out and touched 600 people.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

TO READ THE FULL INTERVIEW, VISIT METRONEWS.CA/FEATURES

In Metro Thursday

- **Super villains vs. superheroes:** Who are super villains and what role do they play?

More at metronews.ca

- **Video: Real-Life Superhero Thanatos tells his story.** Metro Vancouver reporters followed Thanatos on a rainy afternoon as he patrolled the gritty streets of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.
- **Slideshow: The women among the Real-Life Superheroes.**

ANGEN/FOR METRO

Putting the 'her' in superheroes

Currently, there are about 15 female Real-Life Superheroes in North America. Most of them work with a team or as one half of a couple, but some of them also act on their own

Red Light. Street patrol

Red Light NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Red Light was only 15 years old when she decided to make a difference by volunteering at an elder-care facility. At 17, she was doing homeless outreach. Six months ago, she started to patrol almost every night, sometimes 12 hours at a time. Today, she still patrols 15 to 20 hours a week.

Working alone, she has to be careful with her actions. For example, she helps people by talking down a dispute or finding rides for those who are too drunk to drive. When the situation is too risky, she serves as an extra set of eyes and ears, and calls authorities when she witnesses suspicious activities or mistreatment of animals.

She decided to start working toward her EMT certification after trying to rescue a man suffering from a heroin overdose. "Many of my other skills were picked up through experience. I learned how to fight by necessity. I learned vigilance by being different. I learned to stay calm in a crisis by conditioning," explains Red.

Growing up, she was subject to sexual abuse and domestic violence. She was also diagnosed with a malignant tumour in her stomach at 28 years old. It took her five years to get the necessary funds to go through her operation. She has become aware of her own mortality. "I feel like I've already been given extra time, so I'm not afraid of dying. Every day is another chance to make things better."

Now, with her red hair past her knees, she plans on donating it to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that takes human-hair donations and creates wigs for young chemotherapy patients.

"Life is only as bad as you let it be. It's easy to forget how much we have when it feels like we have to fight so hard to keep it. It hasn't stopped me from being kind to people. I still patrol. I still help others. Anyone can do something. Anyone." **NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO**

Purple Reign. Night crime

Purple Reign RYAN MCNAMEE/FOR METRO

For more than a year, Purple Reign was abused by her boyfriend — physically, emotionally and mentally. One night, when she was given permission to go out with friends — which didn't happen very often — Reign returned home to find her boyfriend angry and belligerent.

He attacked her.

"I told him I was going to call the police. I tried to escape and he kept coming after me," she says.

She threw open the door, yelling, hoping someone in the condo complex would hear her. No one came to her aid.

"He was choking me and banging my head against the floor. I started to lose consciousness and I couldn't breathe. I just gave up because I felt so low to begin with. I was finished fighting."

Finally spent, her boyfriend stopped hitting her. With the help of a domestic-violence lawyer, she kicked her boyfriend out and moved right away so her ex couldn't find her.

Within in a year, she met with Real Life Superhero Phoenix Jones and engaged in a healthy and loving relationship with him. She patrols with the Rain City Superheroes, a group of heroes from Seattle who fight crime at night.

She has since founded the non-profit Purple Reign Campaign — purplereigncampaign.org — through which she raises funds for the Northwest Family Life non-profit organization. They help victims of domestic abuse by proving them with education and assistance.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Women heroes

LORI FUSARO/FOR METRO

1 The Handler. Los Angeles
The owner of a dog-training school searches for strays animals and finds them new homes.

2 KatWoman. Cleveland
With the Underground Justice League Alliance, KatWoman engages in crime prevention and homeless outreach and helps locate missing people. A registered nurse, she also provides first aid to the injured.

3 Rock N. Roll. San Francisco
Rock N. Roll donates and distributes food and clothing to the less fortunate. She collects syringes in a public area frequented by intravenous drug users. She is the co-founder of the California Initiative and the S.T.A.N.D. news site.

4 Misery White. Minneapolis
Misery White champions anti-bullying, domestic-violence and child-abuse education and prevention programs. She also advocates for shelters, food banks and homeless outreach.

5 Crimson Catalyst. Chicago
Crimson Catalyst, a model and stage performer, patrols the streets and distributes food and supplies to the homeless. All of the meals are prepared by her.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Summit. Nobel laureates meet to discuss peace

Poverty, a lack of education and arms proliferation present daunting obstacles, yet peace can be achieved if world leaders are more willing to talk and young people are encouraged to get involved, Nobel Peace Prize winners said at their annual meeting.

Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter and ex-presidents Mikhail Gorbachev of the former Soviet Union and Lech Walesa of Poland were among the Peace Prize winners in Chicago for the start of the three-day World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates.

The summit runs through Wednesday and comes just weeks before Chicago hosts U.S. President Barack Obama, also a Nobel Peace Prize winner, and foreign leaders for the NATO summit, a meeting that is expected to draw large numbers of anti-war protesters. Obama did not attend Monday's meetings.

Actor Sean Penn on Wednesday will be presented with the 2012 Peace Summit Award for his work in Haiti.

Carter said that, as the last global superpower, the U.S. has a responsibility to be a leader in peace efforts and set an example to the rest of the world. Instead, he said, the U.S. is "too inclined to go to war" and is contemplating going to war again, "perhaps in Iran."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe

Headscarf laws dangerous: Report

European laws on what girls and women wear on their heads are encouraging discrimination against Muslims and against a religion that has been part of Europe's fabric for centuries, Amnesty International says in a new report. Extremist political movements targeting Muslim practices for criticism have grown in several European countries — as witnessed by French far-right leader Marine Le Pen's strong showing in presidential elections this week.

The Amnesty report lists a raft of examples of discrimination against Muslims from Spain to the Netherlands and Turkey. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Witnesses recall horror of Norway bombing

Confessed mass killer Anders Behring Breivik confers with his defence lawyer in the courtroom in Oslo Tuesday. LISE ASERUD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trial. Police and forensic experts take stand in Breivik trial

After testifying for five days, Anders Behring Breivik listened silently Tuesday as others described the mayhem caused by his bombing of Oslo's government district, a scene one witness described as a "war zone."

Forensic experts explained the massive injuries to four of the eight victims killed by the 950-kilogram fertilizer bomb on July 22. Breivik admits to the bombing and a subsequent shooting massacre at a Labor Party youth camp that left 69 people dead, most of them teenagers.

Chilling

"I estimated the chances of survival as less than five per cent."

Anders Behring Breivik, confessed killer

"More than 100 body parts were found in the government district," said Ole Morten Stoerseth, a police official tasked with identifying the blast victims.

Relatives of those killed sobbed and embraced during the autopsy presentations. Pictures of the victims' injuries were not shown in court but distributed to the judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers as well as the psychiatrists who are examining Breivik during the trial.

Breivik claims the attacks were "necessary" and that the victims had betrayed Norway by embracing immigration.

As he has for most of the trial, now in its seventh day, the far-right fanatic remained mostly expressionless during the hearing Tuesday. But he smiled when a security guard, who was inside the government high-rise when the bomb exploded, called Breivik's motive for the attacks "totally absurd."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online filing cabinet.
Google unveils digital content storage service

Google is hoping to build the world's largest digital filing cabinet in the latest attempt to deepen people's dependence on its services.

The Internet search leader's latest product stores personal documents, photos, videos and a wide range of other digital content on Google's computers. By keeping files in massive data centres, users will be able to call up the information on their smartphones, tablet computers, laptops and just about any other Internet-connected device. Google Inc. announced the long-rumoured service Tuesday. Called Google Drive, the service is offering the first five gigabytes of storage per account for free. Additional storage will be sold for prices starting at $2.49 US per month for 25 gigabytes up to $49.99 US per month for one terabyte.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Competitor

While San Francisco startup Dropbox Inc. has emerged as the early favourite among consumers, another startup called Box Inc. has carved a niche offering online storage for businesses.

- Box has raised $162 million US in venture capital and boasts about 120,000 companies as clients.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.21¢ (+0.30)

TSX 11,980.1 (-8.85)

OIL $103.55 US (+44¢)

GOLD $1,634.80 US (+$11.20)

Natural gas: $1.975 (-3.2¢)
Dow Jones: 13,001.56 (+74.39)

Tycoons announce cosmic mining venture

10-year plan.
Filmmaker James Cameron, Silicon Valley titans look to space to extract minerals

Space-faring robots could be extracting gold and platinum from asteroids within 10 years if a new venture backed by two Silicon Valley titans and filmmaker James Cameron goes as planned.

Outside experts are skeptical about the project, announced at a news conference in Seattle Tuesday, which would likely require untold millions, or perhaps billions of dollars and huge advances in technology. But the same entrepreneurs pioneered the selling of space rides to tourists — a notion that seemed fanciful not long ago, too.

Beginning the process

"It's the stuff of science fiction, but like so many other areas of science fiction, it's possible ... making them reality."
Thomas Jones, former astronaut

Planetary Resources mechanical engineer Peter Illsley puts finishing touches on a prototype model of a low-orbit spacecraft Tuesday in Seattle, with the plan to mine nearby asteroids such as the near-Earth asteroid Eros, inset.
ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Since my early teenage years, I've wanted to be an asteroid miner. I always viewed it as a glamorous vision of where we could go," Peter Diamandis, one of the founders of Planetary Resources, said at a news conference at the Museum of Flight in Seattle. The company's vision "is to make the resources of space available to humanity."

The inaugural step, to be achieved in the next 18 to 24 months, would be launching the first in a series of private telescopes that would search for the right type of asteroids.

The plan is to use commercially built robotic ships to squeeze rocket fuel and valuable minerals out of the rocks that routinely whiz by Earth. One of the company founders predicts they could have their version of a space-based gas station up and running by 2020.

Several scientists not involved in the project said they were simultaneously thrilled and wary, calling the plan daring, difficult — and very pricey. They don't see how it could be cost-effective, even with platinum and gold worth nearly $1,600 US an ounce.

An upcoming NASA mission to return just two ounces (60 grams) of an asteroid to Earth will cost about $1 billion US.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murdoch's lobbying puts Olympic minister in spotlight

Protesters dressed up as Rupert Murdoch, left, and his son James pose for photographers as they demonstrate outside the Leveson inquiry at the High Court in London Tuesday. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News Corp. executive James Murdoch's behind-the-scenes lobbying campaign spilled out into the public domain Tuesday, casting a harsh light on the government's Olympics czar.

Murdoch was speaking before the media-ethics inquiry set up in the wake of the country's phone-hacking scandal, which has shaken the country's establishment with revelations of journalistic misdeeds, police corruption and corporate malpractice.

Some of Murdoch's testimony revisited his own role in the scandal, but far more explosive were revelations about how senior British ministers went out of their way to smooth the path for one of his biggest-ever business deals.

Particularly damning was correspondence showing how Olympics czar Jeremy Hunt secretly backed Murdoch's multibillion-dollar bid for full control of satellite broadcaster British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC.

As the minister charged with deciding whether to refer the takeover deal to Britain's competition authority, Hunt was meant to have been neutral.

"I am approaching the decision with total impartiality and following strict due process," Hunt told lawmakers in January 2011. But a cache of text messages and emails published by the Leveson inquiry Tuesday suggested that Hunt was fighting on Murdoch's side the whole time.

"He said we would get there at the end, and he shared our objectives," was how an email from News Corp. lobbyist Frederic Michel described Hunt's attitude.

Other emails appeared to capture Hunt's office providing Murdoch with sensitive intelligence on his political opponents and offering advice on how best to present his bid. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Damaging relations

As secretary for culture, Olympics, media and sport, Jeremy Hunt is the most senior government official dedicated to the 2012 Games.

- If it were proven that he had given James Murdoch special favours, his lead role on the games might be in jeopardy.
- Within minutes of Murdoch's testimony, opposition politicians were calling on Hunt to step down.

Retail

Canada-U.S. price gap scrutinized

Canada's retailers are blaming suppliers for the large gap between their prices and identical goods for sale south of the border, despite the nearly equal value of the two dollars.

Canadian merchants are being unfairly singled out for having higher prices than their American counterparts, Diane Brisebois of the Retail Council of Canada told a Senate committee Tuesday.

She said because Canada's population is so small in comparison, large multinational vendors can enforce a special Canadian price for brand-name products and it can be anywhere from 10 to 50 per cent higher than in the United States.

"There are price differences between Canada and the U.S., but they are not always determined at the retail level," Brisebois told the committee.

Brisebois said Canadian retailers have no choice but to buy from the Canadian distributors of American manufacturers because they are restricted from buying in the U.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justice Department

First charges laid over BP oil spill

A BP engineer intentionally deleted more than 300 text messages that said the company's efforts to control the Gulf of Mexico oil spill were failing, and that the amount of oil leaking was far more than what the company reported, the U.S. Justice Department said Tuesday.

In the first criminal charges related to the deadly explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig in April 2010, the Justice Department arrested Kurt Mix and charged him with two counts of obstruction of justice for allegedly destroying evidence sought by federal authorities, officials announced in a statement

The charges came a day before a federal judge in New Orleans was to consider preliminary approval of a $7.8-billion US settlement between BP and a committee of plaintiffs in a civil case. Shrimp processors have raised objections, saying the settlement does not adequately compensate them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain

Novartis tries to push pricier drug on state hospitals

Swiss drug giant Novartis is taking legal action in Britain to make state-run hospitals use an eye drug that costs about 700 pounds ($1,120 Cdn) per shot instead of a cheaper one that costs just 60 pounds ($95). A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine showed Avastin worked just as well as Lucentis for treating an eye disorder. According to Britain's health watchdog, Novartis' Lucentis is the only drug recommended to treat the eye problem macular degeneration.

The headquarters of Novartis AG in Basel, Switzerland.
GAETAN BALLY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACK WHEN SPAM WAS SOMETHING YOU DIGESTED, NOT DELETED

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

Did you know there's an Internet Hall of Fame?

Well, there is, and the first inductees were announced on Monday— 33 in total, 30 men and three women. One of the women was known as Jake and another was named Mitchell. So far, Geek Valhalla is a man's world.

Oct. 29, 1969, 22:30 hours. That's when the first message was sent on ARPANET, the Internet's immediate predecessor. It was from the Nigerian foreign minister, offering the recipient $20 million in exchange for his bank-account number (LOL).

What did we do before?

It's hard to believe that the Internet is over 40, especially because the only people who really know how to use it are 14.

The Nigerian foreign minister is not among the inductees, but you'll be pleased to know that Al Gore is. Al, the 45th vice-president of the United States and the poster boy for climate change, is also famous for allegedly claiming to have invented the Internet, a universally ridiculed contention. Yet, there he is, one of the kids in the hall. Not for inventing the Internet per se, but coming pretty close: Hailed as a "Global Connector" and helping to invent "the information superhighway" along which many a frustrated computer illiterate has become electronic roadkill.

The truth is there's not exactly one inventor of the Internet, because a bunch of old white guys flipped the switches. But the honour for the vision could go to J.C.R. Licklider of MIT, who released a paper in August 1962 on a "Galactic Network," a globally interconnected set of computers through which everyone could quickly access data and programs from any site. It was called Amazon (LOL, again).

Oddly, Jeff Bezos, the man who actually invented Amazon, isn't on the list, at least not yet, while Craig Newmark is. Newmark, of course, invented Craigslist, without which there would be no roommates or used-car sales, so I guess he's more important.

It's hard to believe that the Internet is over 40, especially because the only people who really know how to use it are 14. We've come a long way from a time when pioneers such as Vint Cerf and Tim Berners-Lee (both inductees) envisioned a global electronic village to a day when people can pump out brainless, 140-character declarations about nothing 24-7.

I mean, where would we be without Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest and Netflix? Back in the cave with Don Draper ordering three-martini, smartphone-free lunches? The first email message went out in 1972, and it went straight to my junk mail folder along with the Viagra ads.

Imagine what it was like before that, a time before your pocket buzzed every 30 seconds and when you missed an episode of Game of Thrones you could only wait until next summer for the reruns.

Hard to imagine. Check it out: internethalloffame.org.

As we can see, the Internet has helped us to make huge technological advances. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Rubber hen in space? She's no chicken!

NASA /REX FEATURES

Guinea pig

Rubber chicken flies into storm

SPACE. A plucky rubber chicken has been sent into space to study a solar storm. "Camilla" has boldly gone where no chicken has gone before, after being attached to a helium balloon and sent to an altitude of 36 kilometres.

The hen was used to test levels of radiation in one of the strongest proton storms since 2003. **METRO**

Bird in space

One powerful rubber mascot

SCIENCE PROJECT. The stunt was carried out by Bishop Union High School students in California, as part of their science project last month.

Many space enthusiasts will be familiar with Camilla, who is the mascot of NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, and has more than 20,000 followers on social-media websites.

METRO

Camilla's helium balloon pops.
EARTH TO SKY/BISHOP CA

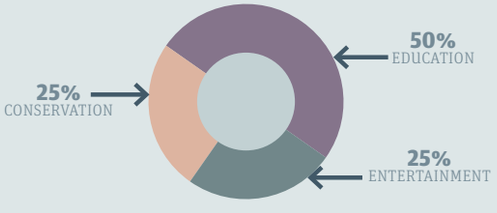
Camilla's flight

- **Scientific study:** In her two-and-a-half-hour flight, Camilla spent about 90 minutes in the stratosphere, where temperatures and air pressures are similar to those on Mars. On her specially knitted space suit, she wore a pair of radiation badges — the same kind donned by medical technicians and nuclear workers to assess their dosages.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What's the main purpose of a zoo?



Twitter

@LilyFrampton92: My last exam tonight, both nervous and excited because it's my last first year exam for #westernu

@heesoup: Scared about all the marks starting to be posted on WebCT and Student Centre #westernu #finals

@Paigeemariah: Where is hiring in London?! #ldnont

@phrawr: Rain, snow, sun, rain, sun, snow.... #LDNont

@gavincorcelli: Weather changed 4 times just on my drive home, wtf. #LDNont

@SusanTruppe: Pleased to be meeting with a delegation of British Parliamentarians on Parliament Hill to discuss women in politics. #ldnont #cdnpoli

metro
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Jason Statham doesn't stray far from his wheelhouse in his new movie, Safe. HANDOUT

Statham's safety zone: Guns, girls and hard glares

If it ain't broke... It may have all been done before by the action star, but his new film is likely to be a Safe bet at the box office

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Movie tough-guy Jason Statham is either remarkably consistent or just really enjoys playing guys who can break your neck with his steely gaze. Whatever the case, when you pay your money for a Statham flick, you know in advance what you're getting into.

In this weekend's Safe, the gravelly-voiced action hero digs deep into his bag of tricks to play Luke Wright, a.k.a. Statham Character #2. That's the "loner with a past who must protect a youthful innocent." (As opposed to Statham Character #1 in which he plays "a loner with a past who must protect a loved one.")

Like his other movies, Safe is a marketers dream. Here's a sample ad:

Body Count: 350

Bullet Budget: $1,000,000

Jason Statham's Steely Glare: Priceless

Recently a scientific poll — OK, I posted a question on Facebook — posed this question: What makes Statham movies so popular? Here are some of the comments:

- His Blue Steel stare puts Zoolander to shame!
- His complete lack of facial movement? It's like if Buster Keaton were an emotionless British killing machine.
- He always manages to kick someone's butt while being tied to a chair.
- Not since Don Johnson, circa Miami Vice, has an actor managed to maintain a perfect three-day stubble...

Let's face it, his movies are more than a bit predictable. "You gotta be kidding me!" you'll be tempted to groan at some of the plot twists — if only the movie's characters didn't beat you to it.

They are cliché-a-thons, but because Statham understands his audience and persona, his films are dumb good fun. His über-macho presence is more important than the script. As long as he is in motion, running and leaping, kicking and punching, and giving voice to action-movie platitudes in his distinctive English rasp, his pictures work.

Statham has made films like Transporter, Killer Elite and The Mechanic over and over again. Different title, and sometimes with a big- name supporting cast (like Robert De Niro and Clive Owen) and sometimes not (Safe co-stars newcomer Catherine Chan), but the story of a tough guy who lives in a world where "Everybody knows the rules — there are no rules," is the common thread.

Statham, however, says he's open to showing audiences another side of his personality.

When a Huffington Post writer asked if he would make a rom-com with Reese Witherspoon he said, "Of course, I would love to do that. But my phone is right there and it ain't f—ing ringing."

Jason Statham

His über-macho presence is more important than the script — as long as he is in motion, running and leaping, kicking and punching, his films work.

Coulson: The glue that binds Marvel

Clark Gregg is probably best known for playing Agent Phil Coulson in Iron Man, Iron Man 2 and Thor. Now Coulson is assigned the task of shepherding all the Marvel characters together for The Avengers. Metro sat down with Gregg to talk about what it's like being the 'weird uncle' who babysits a bunch of superheroes.

You've appeared in most of these films as the guy rounding up the team. What's it been like from your perspective?

I wasn't quite sure how I was getting to be a part of this — it seemed so surprising. Something about the character was clicking. I was doing scenes in Iron Man 2 talking about going to New Mexico, and finally I pulled somebody aside and said, "What's in New Mexico?" And they were like, "Nobody talked to you? You're going to be in Thor. You're kind of in charge in New Mexico."

Do you have a favourite Avenger?

You know, it may sound like a copout, but Agent Coulson is not the father, certainly, of this dysfunctional family, but he is kind of like the weird uncle who babysits a lot. And I think there's a choice you make of just, "I'm never going to have a favourite." There's a special kind of snarky rapport with Tony Stark that Agent Coulson actually really enjoys.

NED EHRBAR

Clark Gregg plays Agent Phil Coulson in The Avengers.

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

Seacrest staying on with Idol

Ryan Seacrest is sticking around as host of American Idol. The Fox network said Monday night that Seacrest will continue as host of the hit TV singing-competition series, over which he has presided since its premiere a decade ago. The network gave no specifics about the length of his new contract, or any monetary details. Seacrest called the show's run until now "a wild ride," and said he is excited it will continue with him on board.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brand stands up for drug addicts

Comedian Russell Brand says "love and compassion" are key to weaning addicts off drugs. Brand testified before a U.K. parliamentary committee on Tuesday about his own experience with addiction, and said society should not "discard people, write them off on methadone and leave them on the sidelines."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Zac Efron brings The Lucky One to London for European premiere

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Katy Perry ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Katy spotted cuddling with Florence and the Machine guitarist

It looks like Katy Perry is moving on after her divorce from Russell Brand.

The pop singer was spotted at the Coachella music festival holding hands, cuddling and generally acting like a couple with Florence and the Machine guitarist Robert Ackroyd, according to Hollyscoop.

Of course, Perry has also recently been linked to French singer and model Baptiste Giabiconi, with his rep going so far as to confirm their getting to know each other.

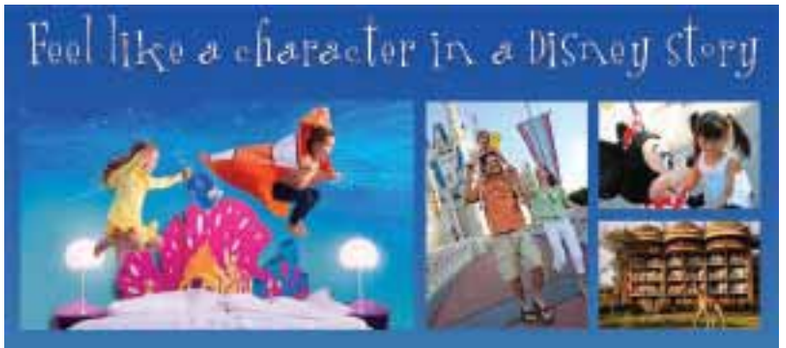
Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux

Aniston scoping out wedding venues on the island of Crete?

Jennifer Aniston reportedly used a recent European vacation with Justin Theroux to scope out potential wedding venues, according to TMZ.

The pair are said to have been particularly enamored with Elouda Beach, a remote and secluded fishing port on the island of Crete — which also happens to be the birthplace of Aniston's father.

Of course, the couple hasn't announced an engagement, let alone a wedding date, but sources tell TMZ Aniston is thinking about July.



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To register and for full contest details visit clubmetro.com.

As to Disney properties/artwork: ©Disney. As to Disney/Pixar properties/artwork: ©Disney/Pixar.

Baby on board: Drew celebrates pregnancy

Drew Barrymore and fiancé Will Kopelman have plenty to celebrate, what with both a wedding and a baby reportedly on the way, so this weekend was the perfect time for a shower.

"Everyone was doting on pregnant Drew and asking her how she is feeling," a source tells Us Weekly of the party, held at producer Leonard Goldberg's home.

Segel skips red carpet to hang with his new girl

Jason Segel went to great lengths to avoid the cameras and still catch the premiere of girlfriend Michelle Williams' new movie, Take This Waltz, at the Tribeca Film Festival.

The 5-Year Engagement star dodged the red carpet to "sneak through the back entrance to be there with Michelle," a source says, according to Hollyscoop. Of course, there was no such sneaking around when it came to the after-party, where the pair reportedly packed on the public displays of affection.

"There was no mistaking that they were a couple," says a source.

The Word

Celebrity fetus round-up

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

It's a slow gossip day, so let's check in with everyone's favourite subject: The uteri of the stars!

First up: Jessica Simpson, who, it should be noted, is still pregnant. (At this point, does anyone else feel like Simpson is going to be in the Guinness Book of World Records for "mammal with the longest gestation period," right next to "elephant"?)

"I just woke up from a dream that I wore a leopard caftan in the hospital. Fabulous!!" Simpson tweeted Tuesday. "Now I need to find one!"

Even the Fashion Star mentor knows this is a seemingly never-ending pregnancy: "To everyone who keeps congratulating me on the birth of my baby girl ... I'm still pregnant!!" Simpson tweeted Saturday. "Don't believe what you read, ladies and gents."

Meanwhile, Life & Style is reporting that Drew Barrymore, who has yet to confirm her pregnancy, is, like Simpson, having a girl. A source close to Drew "exclusively revealed" the sex of the child to Life & Style.

I'd take this news with a grain of salt, folks, as no "close" friend would sell out such sacred information to a tabloid. That being said, there's a 50/50 chance that this made-up information is correct. Good job of hedging your bets, Life & Style!

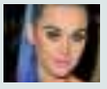
And, just in case you missed it: Giuliana and Bill Rancic, whose struggles with infertility are well documented, announced Monday on Today that they are going to have a baby via a gestational carrier.

"She is giving us the greatest gift we're ever getting in our lives," Giuliana, 37, tells People of the woman whose identity has not been revealed. "She's so selflessly helping make our dream a reality. We adore her."

Let's just hope this carrier isn't on the Jessica Simpson timeline of giving birth.

Twitter

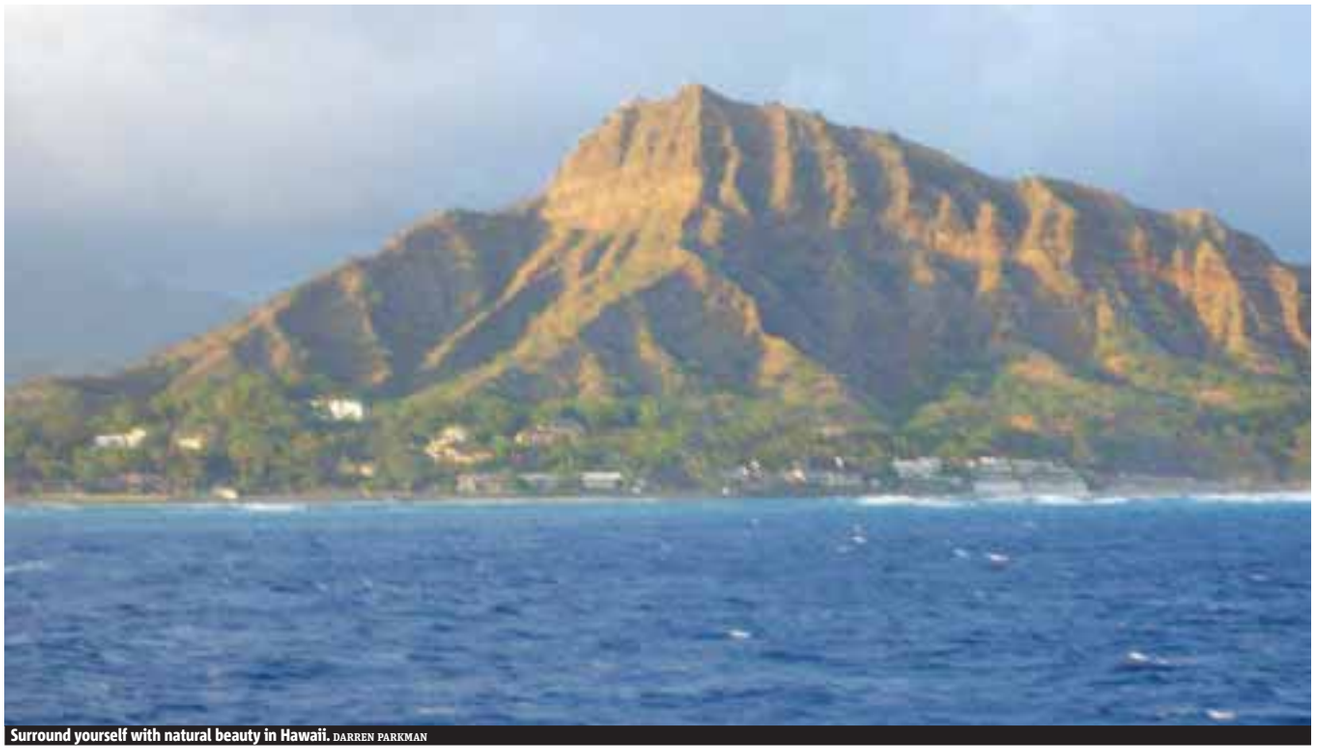
@jimmykimmel
I had the pleasure of working with Dick Clark many times — great guy. Some trivia: did you know he HATED music?



@katyperry
When is the Sublime hologram coming to coachella?! #805

@NiaVardalos
Just back from Disneyland, sunblock wore off, my shnozz has been replaced by an eggplant.

@AlbertBrooks
I wonder if the U.S. purposely sends out crappy drones so when they're captured China & Iran get bad info?



Surround yourself with natural beauty in Hawaii. DARREN PARKMAN

Oahu's underwater views something to see

Submarine fun. The Travellin' Canadian overcomes his fear of small spaces for a deep-sea adventure

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN
Darren Parkman
travel@metronews.ca

Pineapples and hula dancers are one thing, but deep-sea diving in a real submarine is quite another.

Despite my gripping fear of confined spaces, I found myself signing up for an undersea submarine adventure aboard the world's largest high-tech passenger sub — the Atlantis — during a recent respite to sunny Oahu.

Claim to fame aside, the Atlantis seemed downright tiny as I climbed down the narrow staircase to take my place inside this cramped metal tomb.

Thankfully, it was fully air-conditioned, but still I was sweating profusely as we sunk lower and lower down into the depths.

But the sights soon made me forget about my cowardice. The trip is well worth its cost of $100. The undersea scenery is nothing short of spectacular, with an abundance of intricate reefs surrounded by fascinating sea critters. Gazing through my tiny seaport, I even spied a rather large and menacing reef shark swimming towards us.

That's around the time my fear of confined spaces was replaced with my other crushing phobia — sharks. Luckily, even sharks can't bite through submarines, so all was well.

After floating by an authentic shipwreck and amazing artificial reefs, I felt like it was plenty of adventure for the price as we made our way back to the surface.

Then it was time to partake in what has become a very trendy pastime in Hawaii these days — something called paddle-boarding.

For days, I'd seen people everywhere standing on surfboards with long paddles, riding waves and having fun. It appeared to be fairly easy. Turns out it really isn't.

Who knew you needed actual balancing skills to tackle this fun sport? So with gorgeous Diamond Head as a backdrop and paddle in hand, I hopped on my board and promptly fell in the ocean, all in one motion. Repeated attempts produced the same results.

After 19 or so tries, I actually was able to balance on the wobbly board and paddle around for a bit before again plummeting into the drink.

Turns out this paddle-boarding thing is actually quite a workout. I found just falling and climbing back onto the board multiple times was exhausting.

But that's OK — it's all part of fun on the water in Honolulu.

Aloha, baby!

The Pearl Harbor Memorial. ISTOCK

Other cool things to do...

- **Visit the Pearl Harbor Memorial.** Take a trip out to the floating memorial of the USS Arizona, commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor. An historical and very sombre experience — this is a must do when in Honolulu.
- **Hike to the top of Diamond Head.** Climb a well-trodden path to the top of the 350-acre crater to experience spectacular views of downtown Honolulu. The hike is easy for young and old, and well worth it for the million-dollar views.

3 LIFE

Travel in brief

Where to get the world's best sandwich

Grill some salami and baloney. Add Swiss or cheddar cheese. Slather on mustard. Put between yellow bread. What do you get? According to Travel and Leisure magazine, one of the world's best sandwiches. It's the Wilensky's Special, served at Wilensky's Light Lunch at the corner of Fairmont and Clark streets in Montreal's Mile End area. The diner was made famous by Mordecai Richler in his novel The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz and has an ambience that, according to Frommer's, "can best be described as Early Jewish Immigrant." "Served on wax paper, the sandwich comes with rules: it always has mustard and is never halved," says Travel and Leisure. The price: $4.99 (50 cents less without the cheese). Just because sandwiches are convenience foods doesn't mean they can't be great. A croque-monsieur in Paris, with mozzarella and black truffles, is a tasty treat, as is a lobster roll with melted butter in Essex, Mass. Here are some of the other "best sandwiches from around the world" on T&L's list: chicken Philly cheesesteak (Philadelphia); ham and cheese baguette (New York); squid in its own ink with aioli (Madrid); hand-massaged wagyu beef on white bread (Tokyo).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Don't stay home because you lack a companion: Tips for travelling solo.

Local ingredients shine in Butternut Squash, Spinach and Feta Frittata

Butternut Squash, Spinach and Feta Frittata

This recipe serves 12. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

"Butternut squash is a great local food for all of Canada," says Toronto-based Christy Brissette, a registered dietitian and spokesperson for Dietitians of Canada. "The frittata is full of beta-carotene. It's also a way to enjoy some greens and get some vegetables in there."

It can be served with a green salad or a steamed green vegetable such as peas, beans or edamame. For a protein boost, sprinkle the salad or vegetable with toasted nuts or seeds.

1. Grease 33-by-23-cm (13-by-9-inch) glass baking dish. Then place squash in microwave-safe bowl and cover with plastic wrap, leaving a corner open to vent. Microwave on high for 5 minutes or until fork-tender. Drain off excess liquid. Stir in potatoes, spinach and red onion. Spread in baking dish.

2. In a bowl, whisk eggs, milk and pepper. Pour over veg and stir to distribute. Sprinkle evenly with cheddar and feta.

3. Bake in 200 C (400 F) oven 40 mins. or until eggs are set. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/COOK! BY THE DIETITIANS OF CANADA/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR, TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Ingredients

- 1 butternut squash (about 2 lb/1 kg), peeled and cubed (1 to 1.25 litres/4 to 5 cups)
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) peeled and cubed potatoes
- 1 pkg (300 g/10 oz) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) thinly sliced red onion
- 8 eggs
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) 1% milk
- 1 mL (1/4 tsp) freshly ground black pepper
- 250 ml (1 cup) shredded cheddar cheese
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) crumbled feta cheese

Drink of the Week

Frangelico Truffle Cocktail

Fancy a Frangelico Truffle Cocktail?

You'll have an affection for this confection with a decadent combination of Frangelico, Skyy Vodka and a cold espresso shot.

Garnish it with chocolate shavings!

1. Shake with ice and serve up in a cocktail or martini glass. Dust with dark chocolate shavings.

- 1 oz Frangelico
- 1oz SKYY vodka
- 3/4 oz cold espresso

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Ontario

Rich, creamy, filled with cheese

1. Heat oven to 200 C (400 F). Fill bowl with ice water.

2. Bring saucepan of water to a boil. Add asparagus and blanch 3 minutes or until just tender. Use slotted spoon to remove asparagus from boiling water and transfer to ice water. Once cool, drain and set aside.

3. In blender, combine egg whites, whole eggs, fat-free half-and-half, 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt and 1 ml (1/4 tsp) pepper. Blend until smooth. Stir in gruyere.

4. In oven-safe skillet over medium, heat oil. Add shallots and cook 4 mins. or until soft. Add ham, asparagus and blended egg mix. Stir for 1 min. or until egg just starts to set up.

This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5. Sprinkle potatoes over top and sprinkle with salt and black pepper. Bake 5 mins. on centre rack or until eggs are set. Increase to broil and cook for 7 mins. or until potatoes are crisp and lightly browned. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Ingredients

- 250 ml (1 cup) chopped asparagus (1.5-cm/1-inch lengths)
- 4 egg whites
- 2 whole eggs
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) fat-free half-and-half
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) shredded gruyere cheese
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 shallots, sliced
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) dice smoked ham
- 500 ml (2 cups) shredded frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed

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From working for free to finally getting hired

Intern to employee.
A guide to securing a spot by someone who managed to do it

JUSTINE ABIGAIL YU
TalentEgg.ca

Ah, the beloved and yet begrudged unpaid internship. Is there any other position that elicits more mixed feelings?

It's an incredible opportunity that gives you that competitive edge to build your career, opens doors to much-needed work experience, and puts you in touch with a whole slew of potentially critical contacts.

But no monetary compensation? Zero? Nada? Zilch? It's a bit of a tough pill to swallow because those student loans are not going to pay themselves and you do kind of need to eat.

I spent months as an intern for an international non-governmental organization and I turned that unpaid internship into a paid, previously non-existent job.

How? Let me tell you how it's done…

Work as hard as you can

Well, obviously. This should go without saying, but you've really got to treat the internship like a real job. Take ownership of any and all of the tasks that are thrown your way. For the next coming months, that internship is your baby and you'd better make sure your baby is the healthiest, most successful baby there is! (Awkward analogy, but you know what I'm trying to get at…)

Make the absolute most of your time as a temporary part of a team while interning. ISTOCK

Offer to take on extra responsibilities

Time permitting, of course. Show that you're a go-getter and willing to get your hands dirty. And don't just stick to your department, either. Network with individuals from other areas of the company and see if there's anything you can do to help.

Not only will you broaden your skill set beyond your general expertise, but you'll also broaden your exposure to different people who may be able to offer you a job in the future.

JUSTINE ABIGAIL YU IS A COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONAL BY DAY AND A FREELANCE WRITER BY NIGHT. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Pick up the phone

Make a point of keeping in touch

- **So maybe there just really isn't a job available for you right now.** Still, keep in touch and check back every now and then just to say hello and touch base. Make sure you're always on their mind so if a position does open up, you'll be kept in mind.
- **But here's hoping…** By that time, you've already been scooped up by another company — because, let's face it, you're a pro!

Twitter

@TalentEgg
How can students make a good impression during a summer internship?

@_JillianAnnas
Learn whats ok, dont follow bad behaviour of others!

@sidneyevematrix
My 2cents: take initiative & be a problem solver

@Yen_Ho:
Go beyond your job description and seek other opportunities on your team/organization... don't be afraid to learn!

@cosdeleo:
Step out of their role and make a recommendation to improve/implement a new process. Something that will make an impact

@AshleyroweCTV:
@TalentEgg mom always told me squeaky wheel gets the grease. I live by that daily! Persistence is key. And ask questions!!!

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REAPING THE REWARDS

EXPLORE THE GROWING WORLD OF INCENTIVES WITH REWARDS CANADA

GEORGE DOYLE/STOCKBYTE/THINKSTOCK

If you are uncertain where to look for travel deals in a marketplace that is fast becoming a social media maze, Rewards Canada can help you map out a shortcut to savings. The easy-to-navigate website has a surplus of information on building rewards points for travel, whether it be earning frequent flyer miles with a specific airline or saving on the best hotels.

Rewards Canada has you covered with the most efficient ways to effortlessly maximize your travel savings.

Initially launched in September 2001, Rewards Canada provides easy access to articles, charts and information on all the current programs available. By simply visiting the website, consumers are able to pinpoint the most up-to-date offers. These incentives are quickly gaining momentum with Canadians in the know and there is a plethora of reasons to keep up with Rewards Canada.

According to Patrick Sojka, CEO and founder, many consumers are becoming knowledgeable in regards to the best ways to utilize rewards.

"The programs themselves are doing a good job of promoting the benefits of loyalty programs and consumers are getting very savvy by taking the time to learn all the ins and outs to make sure they maximize their experience in the world of earning the miles/points," he says.

Some of the most popular programs are Aeroplan and Air Miles, but Sojka says that newer programs are also rising through the ranks. For instance, WestJet Rewards have been gaining momentum over the last six months as it has broadened its focus to include the leisure traveller as well as the business traveller.

Rewards Canada currently focuses exclusively on travel rewards, but over the next year it will also be exploring further loyalty offers such as cash back credit cards. For those who may be uncertain how to get started, Sojka says all the information is just a mouse click away.

"You just simply have to visit Rewardscanada.ca to become aware of existing opportunities, but we also have a weekly newsletter that provides a roundup of all the items added to website over the previous week," he explains.

Rewards Canada also features a blog and utilizes social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter. With a constant stream of new programs materializing, Sojka believes the choices are always growing and only getting better.

"It's an evolutionary process," he says. "New programs come out and improve on what the older ones provide."

To learn more, visit rewardscanada.ca/. *– Nicole Trask*

GEORGE DOYLE/STOCKBYTE/THINKSTOCK

RECEIVE A WELL-DESERVED RETURN

There are customer loyalty incentives popping up everywhere, whether the focus is shopping, dining, fuel or even coffee.

Starbucks is one of the latest establishments to get on board with its My Starbucks Rewards card, which allows you to earn "stars" with every purchase. These can lead to free refills, a complimentary drink on your birthday, or a shot of syrup or soy milk at no extra charge. Once you have earned 30 points, Starbucks bumps you up to gold and the options expand even further.

The shopping options are also endless with Indigo Books and Music, Chapters, Sobeys and Staples, all offering a bounty of attractive deals. The Body Shop features the Love Your Body card, which allows members to receive 10 per cent off all qualifying purchases, birthday gift cards and exclusive offers during customer appreciation days.

With all the rewards programs bursting onto the scene, it has become easier than ever for loyal customers to save, feel appreciated and receive a well-deserved return on their purchases.

– Nicole Trask

OPTIONS ABOUND

FOR YOUR POINTS

Have you ever looked at piles of rewards points, thinking, "I can't get anything for that?" Take hope. You might not score that dream vacation, but there are ways to get something else worthwhile.

INSTANT REDUCTIONS

Some programs recognize clients don't want to save up — they want savings, now. Air Miles began a "cash" program in March due to customer demand. "They really wanted the instant benefit of being able to get cash off," says Rachel MacQueen, a spokesperson for Air Miles. "It's picking up great momentum."

Linda DiMaria is a Toronto-based collector who likes the idea of cheaper gas and groceries.

"In this day and age, when money is a little scarce, it's nice to be able to use it towards things that we do need right now," she says.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

TRADE 'EM IN

Explore whether you can exchange dead-weight points for useful ones. Your card issuer may already have agreements with other programs: For example, certain CIBC credit cards, American Express and Diners Club points can be converted into Aeroplan Miles. You need to own both accounts in the exchange. Be aware the exchange rate may not be a direct one-to-one.

There is also the Toronto-based company Points.com, which allows you to trade points with other cardholders — for a fee. "There's a lot of overlap in the types of programs that people are participating in," says Points.com president Christopher Barnard.

"We've spent the last 10 years building up a really great relationship with companies around the world." That allows the unique service to move trades securely from one account to another.

INTANGIBLE ITEMS

"I redeem online and get the gift cards through the mail, though I only do it once or twice a year after the points have accumulated," says Jessica Patterson, a Calgary-area collector. As a bonus, she can use the cards to shop for items on sale. If you are with RBC Rewards, you could even apply the points towards your mortgage or RRSP. "It's our fastest growing redemption option," says RBC spokesperson Matthew Gierasimczuk.

DONATE

Many points programs allow you to donate to charity. There are big causes like Engineers Without Borders and War Child Canada, but some programs also allow small charities to register like the local Scouts troop, daycare, or food bank. Some offer a charitable tax receipt.

Overall, Patrick Sojka, the editor of Rewards Canada.ca, thinks the field of non-traditional rewards may continue to see more options. "There are some people who have way more miles and points than they know what to do with," he says.

– Shaina Luck

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LOYAL CONSUMERS

CANADIANS CHOOSE RETAILERS BASED ON REWARDS: SURVEY

DIGITAL VISION/THINKSTOCK

Canadian consumers aren't the only ones who love loyalty points and rewards.

Retailers — from airlines and banks to grocery stores and hotels — love the sticky habits that keep their best customers coming back for more, new research shows.

A whopping 92 per cent of Canadians belong to at least one loyalty program.

The technical term for that sky-high participation rate is "everybody," quips Rob Daniel, vice-president of loyalty and research at Maritz Canada, a consulting firm that specializes in reward programs.

"The main reason why people love points and loyalty programs is really simple," he says. "They love the idea they're getting something in return for behaviours they would do anyway."

Each Canadian carries an average of six loyalty cards, although those who earn more than $125,000 per year have double that number.

Here's the part that businesses love: Affluent consumers are most likely to change their shopping patterns to accommodate loyalty programs.

That's according to a year-long survey commissioned by Maritz that spoke to more than 6,600 Canadians and covered 59 loyalty programs. It was released in February.

About two-thirds of those surveyed said they are more likely to continue doing business with a company that has a loyalty program. And just more than one-third, 35 per cent, have driven past one retailer to get to another one where they can earn more points.

"Participation in loyalty programs is universal," Daniel says. "What's surprising is that 62 per cent were willing to raise their hand and say it's a marketing scheme that actually pushes them to continue doing business with one brand over another."

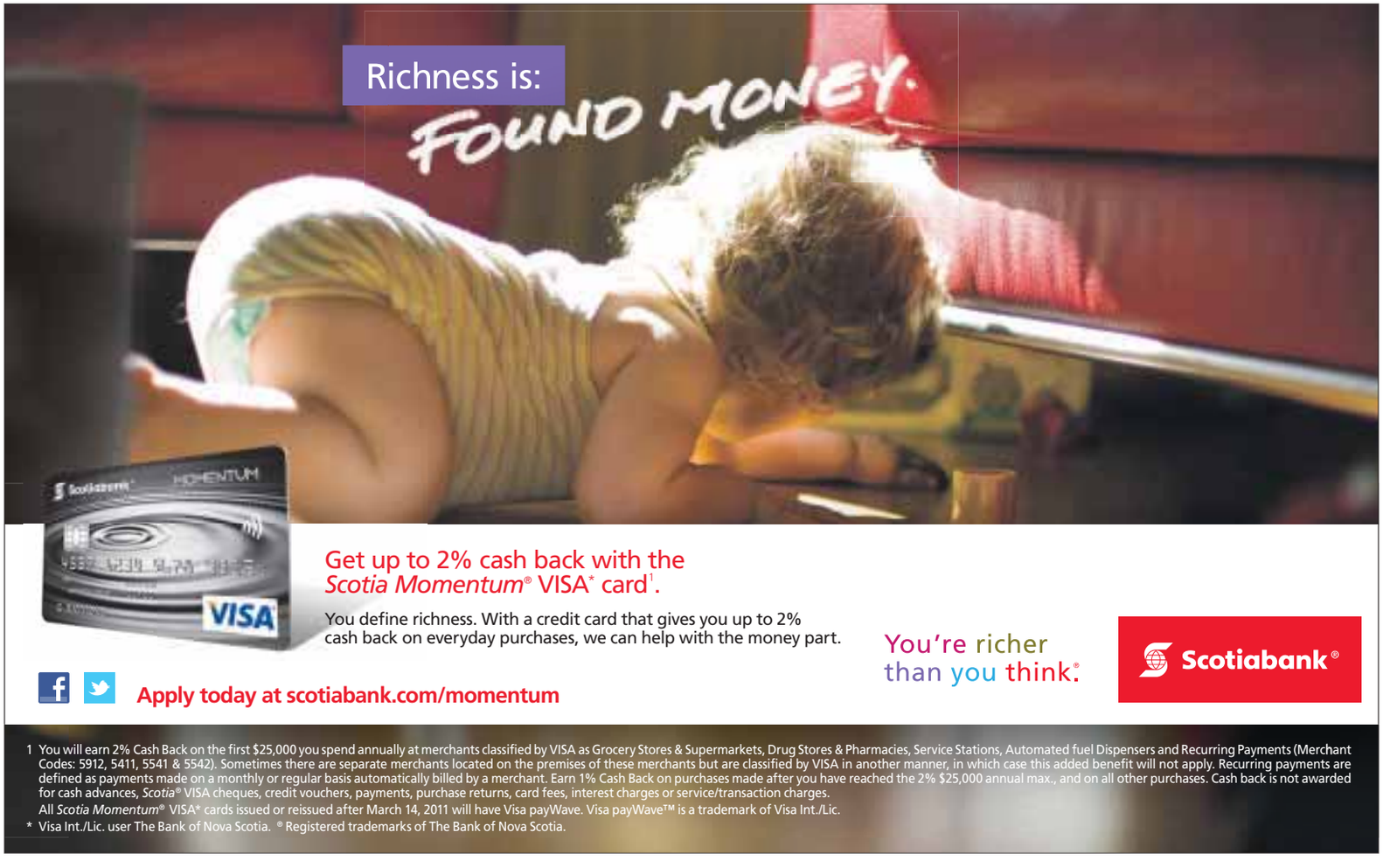
That compares to just 10 per cent who will admit traditional marketing, such as advertising in newspapers, flyers or on TV, influences their shopping pattern.

"Consumers told us they are particularly loyal to programs that make them feel special, offer non-monetary privileges for members only, and communicate often in ways that consumers find personally relevant and interesting," Daniel adds.

– Torstar News Service

GETTING A RUSH

The Maritz Canada study on loyalty programs also found: 38 per cent of those surveyed will purchase a different brand than they normally use in order to maximize loyalty benefits; 69 per cent said the programs are worth the effort of participating; 45 per cent get a rush from watching loyalty program balances grow.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Canucks aftermath

Luongo says he'll waive no-trade clause

Roberto Luongo says he will waive his no-trade clause if the Vancouver Canucks ask him to this off-season.

Luongo made the comments as the Canucks cleaned out their lockers Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Roberto Luongo
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Public-opinion polling

Jimmie Johnson is Forbes' most influential athlete

NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson is ranked by Forbes as America's most influential athlete a second straight year. New York Jets QB Tim Tebow is ranked second.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Champions League

Chelsea stuns Barcelona

Despite going a man and two goals down in the first half, Chelsea earned a 2-2 draw against Barcelona on Tuesday that sent the London club into the final 3-2 on aggregate and eliminated the defending champion
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olympic soccer

"I watched from the stand; always dreamed of leading a team out there one day." John Herdman, Canada's women's coach, on being drawn to play at St. James' Park in his native Newcastle, England. Japan, Sweden and South Africa round out Group F.

Ovechkin admits he gets upset when his playing time gets cut

NHL. Capitals coach Dale Hunter says he prefers better defensive players on ice when in the lead

So it turns out Alex Ovechkin is not thrilled with playing less in the playoffs.

Less than a week after saying it "doesn't matter" that he's been on the bench for long stretches of the Washington Capitals' first-round series against the Boston Bruins, the two-time NHL MVP changed his tune a bit Tuesday, acknowledging he gets upset when he's not on the ice.

But Ovechkin — paid nearly $10 million US a year as Washington's captain and leading scorer — added that he doesn't really have much say in the matter.

"Of course, sometimes you get angry you didn't play a lot (of) minutes. And sometimes you get angry you're not out there," Ovechkin said after practice Tuesday. "But if it's good for the team, you have to eat it."

Ovechkin played a career playoff-low 15 minutes, 34 seconds in Game 5 of Washington's Eastern Conference series against the Stanley Cup champion Bruins. That was after coach Dale Hunter kept Ovechkin on the bench for all but 15 seconds over the final 14 minutes of Game 4.

Hunter says that the particular circumstances of a game — including which team is leading at the time, and which forward lines Boston has on the ice — dictate Ovechkin's minutes.

"He's a big part of the team.... But still, you need the whole team. Come a game like this, you need the four lines and the six 'D' and the goalie going," Hunter said. "Come playoff time, it's always the surprise guys who score the big goals to win the games."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alex Ovechkin celebrates after scoring a goal in Game 6 Sunday in Washington. PATRICK MCDERMOTT/GETTY IMAGES

Down to the wire

Historically close series

Bruins forward Brad Marchand seems to have the answer as to why the Boston-Washington series has been so tight.

"Both teams are just really resilient and I think both teams have a lot of character," Marchand said after practice Tuesday. "And when you have guys like that in the room and on the ice, a little momentum swing won't affect guys and they can bounce back fairly quickly from it."

Indeed, this first-round pairing has been historically close. Not only is it knotted 3-3, it is the first NHL series to ever have its first six games decided by one goal.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Alfredsson repents for outburst ahead of Game 7

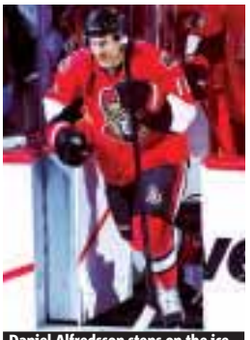
If the end truly is near, Daniel Alfredsson doesn't want to go out like this.

The classy Ottawa Senators captain unleashed a tirade during Monday's Game 6 loss unlike anything seen during his previous 1,240 NHL games. It included a smashed stick, squashed water bottle and a few choice words directed towards coach Paul MacLean.

And it was followed by a morning-after mea culpa.

"It was bad," Alfredsson said Tuesday. "I know I've got to control myself. I didn't send a good message to the rest of the team by doing that, so I don't think you'll see that happen again."

There might not be many more opportunities. Ottawa faces a Game 7 against the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden on Thursday night and it could very well be the last time Alfredsson ever plays in the NHL. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Daniel Alfredsson steps on the ice Monday in Ottawa.
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SPRING SEASON STANDINGS

B DIVISION

TEAMS	GP	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
THROWBACKS	11	9	2	0	0	36	18	18
ABUSEMENT PARK	12	8	3	0	0	40	25	17
REBELS	10	7	1	0	0	42	22	16
SHOCKERS	10	2	7	0	0	20	40	5

C DIVISION

TEAMS	GP	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
DIEHARDS	9	7	1	0	0	45	18	15
BING ACRES	11	7	3	0	0	25	18	15
BALLWHACKERS	11	6	4	0	0	27	34	13
WOLFPACK	12	5	7	0	0	35	38	10
EVIL MONKEY	9	4	3	0	0	23	19	10
LONDON LEAFERS	9	4	5	0	0	22	35	8
OUT OF GAS	11	2	7	0	0	21	45	6
ACE HOLES	9	1	8	0	0	17	41	2

D DIVISION

TEAMS	GP	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
N.A.D.S	10	7	1	0	0	40	20	17
MISFITS	9	6	1	0	0	37	24	14
FUGAZI	10	6	4	0	0	31	27	13
MULTIPLE SCOREGASM	10	3	7	0	0	22	43	6
MARAUDERS	9	2	7	0	0	23	39	4

COED DIVISION

TEAMS	GP	W	L	T	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
FMC	6	6	0	0	0	15	11	14
THUMBS UP	6	4	1	0	0	21	13	10
ALEX'S TEAM	6	2	3	0	0	14	18	5
BALL PUCKERS	6	0	4	0	0	6	14	3

YOUTH STARS OF THE WEEK
1 ANSON ALLEN - COYOTES
2 GOALS, 2 ASSISTS
2 KARSON WILLIAMS - JETS
2 GOALS
3 DEVYN BARTLETT - LEAFS
2 GOALS

MEN'S STARS OF THE WEEK
1 BRENNAN SHIER - ABUSEMENT
5 GOALS, 1 ASSIST - ALL IN 1 GAME
2 STEVE DOAN - DIE HARDS
4 GOALS, 2 ASSISTS - ALL IN 1 GAME
3 BRANDON DYMOND - LONDON LEAFERS
6 GOALS, 1 ASSIST

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4 SPORTS

Quoted

"Typically, I'd be there in a second, but this isn't a normal situation and this isn't me trying to hide away from the world championships. I love playing for Team Canada.... Anyone who is questioning that right now obviously doesn't know me or aren't thinking right."

Sidney Crosby, who strongly defended his decision to not play for Canada in the upcoming world hockey championship, saying he needs to go through the full summer of preparation he missed because of a concussion last year.

"Really, I don't have a choice."

Crosby's Pittsburgh Penguins teammate Evgeni Malkin, who will suit up for Russia at the event in Helsinki and Stockholm from May 4-20.

On the web

It's been a crazy month for golfer Bubba Watson after winning the Masters in a sudden-death playoff on April 8. But, despite the recent fanfare, the lefty with a flair for the dramatic says he's still "just Bubba." Now Watson's back to work preparing to defend his title this week at the Zurich Classic. Scan the code for the story.

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

Handy winder strikes a 'cord'

Most garages or shops contain extension cords that are left in a tangled state and usually take forever to straighten out. The Wonder Winder, manufactured by U.S. company Green Leaf, is a wall- or post-mounted device that keeps up to 46 metres of extension cord neatly coiled at all times. The Wonder Winder, which sells in the $20-$25 US range, also comes with a quick-release mechanism so it can be moved wherever it's needed. For purchasing info, go to grnleafinc.com/Wonder_Winder.asp. You can also locate this product at amazon.com and genuinehotrod.com.

WHEELBASE

On the Web

Scan code for more car reviews and news

New hybrid compact a big draw

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Review. A hybrid for less than $23,000 that pulls down 3.5 l/100 km in the city? Sold.

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

The most popular gasoline-electric hybrid brand around is now a lineup unto itself and the all-new Toyota Prius c is the smallest and least expensive of the bunch.

With fuel costs soaring, it's likely that hybrid demand will accelerate in spite of a continued price gap compared to gasoline-only vehicles. That's good news for Toyota's four-model Prius line and especially good news for the new Prius c (c is for compact).

Although small in stature — 48 centimetres shorter and about five centimetres narrower than the current Prius hatchback — the Prius c comes up big in minimizing fuel consumption, registering 3.5 l/100 km in the city and 4.0 highway. By comparison, the regular Prius's numbers are 3.7/4.0. The combined city/highway number for both is nearly identical at 3.7 for the c and 3.8 for the Prius.

So exactly what advantage does the smaller Prius c hold over its equally thrifty namesake? Actually, there are about 5,000 of them, which is the difference in dollars that distinguish the two Toyotas. The c's on-the-road base tariff is $22,550, placing it well within reach for many buyers and, for example, is only about $5,500 pricier than a Toyota Corolla and actually $1,000 cheaper than the Honda Insight hybrid.

With the Prius c's launch — as well as the launch of the plug-in model and the larger v wagon — Toyota is showing its continuing dominance in the hybrid category by stretching the brand to fit a broader audience. The c is the first, however, to truly challenge entry-level gas-only models on their own turf — which is price point — while providing significantly better economy.

If you concede that the regular Prius and the smaller c consume about the same fuel, then why does the c cost so much less? You actually get less — less space and less power.

The Prius c dash layout is pitched to the right of the driver, although not really for functional or aesthetic reasons.

By comparison

1 Honda CR-Z
Base price: $24,100

2 Honda Insight
Base price: $23,500

3 Kia Rio 5-Door
Base price: $15,600

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SRT Viper is the testosterone in Chrysler's comeback

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The SRT Viper's V-10 engine produces 640 horsepower. CONTRIBUTED

Viper highlights

- 640 hp/600 lb-ft of torque.
- Estimated top speed — a lot!
- Carbon fibre hood and roof.
- Launch Control.

Chrysler was actually thinking at one point of not making another Viper.

I guess you can't really blame them. After all, when you're trying to revive a full-line car company that's on life support, diverting precious resources into a supercar program would seem a tad irrational to anybody. Like blowing rent money on tattoos.

But just as people sometimes have to be cruel to be kind, automakers sometimes have to be irrational to be rational.

"It shows we still have a soul at Chrysler," is how Ralph Gilles put it, when he unveiled the new Viper for the first time, earlier this month at the New York International Auto Show.

Gilles, who heads up design at Chrysler, as well as the SRT division, also related how a fellow executive, Dan Knott, reacted when the company's management team finally green-lighted the Viper comeback at a fateful team meeting.

"(Dan) leaned into the microphone and said, 'Today we're a car company again.'"

The subtext is that car companies need to build some cars just for the hell of it, to show what they're capable of and to prove to the world that they totally understand the irrational element that's lurking somewhere in every vehicle purchase.

The importance of this type of car hit home again for me this week at Toys "R" Us. At the press unveiling in New York, SRT handed out cool press kits to the scribes, but also a Hot Wheels version of the new SRT Viper.

It reminded me that a few Hot Wheels would be a great present for my niece's newest offspring (you can never start car culture too early).

As you can imagine, there was a lot of Hot Wheels merchandise, but not many minivans or crossovers.

This got me thinking: as a business plan for ensuring future brand recognition and support, you could do worse than coming up with a vehicle worthy of being rendered in Hot Wheels.

I guess the other justification for making supercars is in developing future technologies.

The Viper's re-worked V-10 engine, now good for 640 horsepower and 600 lb-ft of torque, is no poster boy for miserly fuel consumption. But Viper's newer and slimmer body is definitely a friend to fuel efficiency. The hood, roof and rear deck are all constructed of carbon fiber, and help make this Viper about 100 pounds lighter than the previous body — and stiffer too. The available "Track Pack" loses another 57 pounds.

With more power and less weight, the 2013 Viper registers in at only 4.91 pounds per horsepower — a figure lower than Porsche 911 Turbo (6.22), Corvette ZR1 (5.01), and Lamborghini Aventador (4.96) and only bettered by the Bugatti Veyron (4.10) and Ferrari F12 (4.70).

But who's counting?

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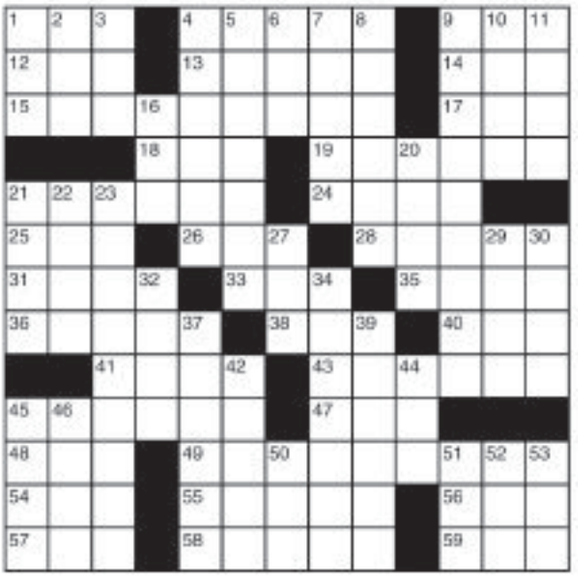
Crossword

Across

1 Triangle part
4 Walked the floor
9 Scatter seed
12 Bullring bravo
13 Earlier on the page
14 Swiss canton
15 Energetic determination
17 Snooze
18 Canal zone?
19 Drawing for a prize
21 Choose
24 Cash drawer
25 Carte lead-in
26 Desire
28 Detroit football team
31 Deviates off course
33 Society newcomer
35 Foolish bloke
36 Cancel
38 Lubricant
40 Old French coin
41 Anthropologist Margaret
43 Swerved
45 Inclement
47 With 16-Down, "Brokeback Mountain" director
48 Legislation
49 Quasimodo's place
54 Gorilla
55 Herded
56 Rage
57 Apiece
58 Skiers' mecca
59 Joke

Down

1 Depressed
2 Inventor Whitney
3 Solidify
4 Pontiff's term of office
5Scrubbed a launch
6 Intimidate
7 Chris of tennis fame
8 Throw off track
9 Kansas emblem
10 Exam format
11 Clean the slate
16 See 47-Across
20 Go like a butterfly
21 "I — Little Prayer"
22 Verve
23 Groundskeeper's machine
27 Ultra-modernist
29 Pleasant
30 Poker variety
32 Litigant
34 Clam or oyster
37 Greek consonant
39 Meager
42 Color workers
44 Freudian topic
45 Rebuff a masher
46 Recording
50 Prune
51 Peruke
52 Mound stat
53 — U.S. Pat. Off.



Sudoku

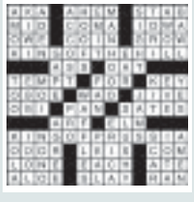
6					8	4	7	
	3			6		9	5	
9			4					1
				8			9	7
		6				5		
3	2			4				
1					9			5
	6	7		5			2	
	9	5	1					8

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	3	6	2	4	7	9	8
7	8	9	3	1	5	4	6	2
6	2	4	8	7	9	3	5	1
3	4	1	2	8	6	5	7	9
8	7	5	9	3	1	2	4	6
9	6	2	5	4	7	8	1	3
1	3	6	4	5	2	9	8	7
2	5	7	1	9	8	6	3	4
4	9	8	7	6	3	1	2	5

Yesterday's Crossword



Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

APNMBR U ZNSOZ CNNI UCNMD ANST AMJTG-JNDTHD CUIOHQ ADMYY QTD DODBTR "DPT YUHDUADOZ YBNMG"?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A RESTAURANT, FEELING LIKE IT DIDN'T CHARGE ENOUGH FOR FILLETS, DECIDED TO RAISE THE STEAKS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. You can make things happen today through sheer force of personality. There is no such word as "can't" in your vocabulary.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Sometimes in life, you have no choice but to sit back and wait it out. This is one of those occasions.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Whatever you do on the spur of the moment today will work out well – or at least do no lasting damage.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Sometimes you can be a bit too cautious for your own good, which means you don't always achieve what you should.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. With mind planet Mercury at odds with Pluto today confidence alone won't take you far. Plan ahead.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. A rival may have more talent than you but you possess something infinitely more important: staying power. Keep that in mind.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You need to free yourself of something that is holding you back. Be ruthless and don't let friends and family members talk you out of it.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You don't need permission to think, speak or act. Stand up for yourself and your beliefs!

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. It'd be a mistake to do anything strenuous over the next 24 hours.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Don't be afraid to explore new experiences. The Sun in Taurus at this time of year makes you incredibly adventurous.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. The more you try to move in a certain direction, the more events conspire to block your progress. Take the hint and hold back for a while.

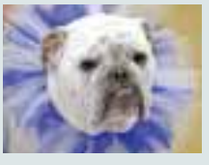
Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Something will happen today that throws your plans into disarray. It's all good. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"What did you say about my mama?!"
Danielle

FRANK AUGSTEIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!



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